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ABSTRACT

Compiled from responses to a questionnaire sent to producers and distributors of spoken-word recordings by the National Library Service (NLS) for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, this reference circular lists 53 selected sources for purchasing or renting fiction and nonfiction spoken-word recordings on disc and cassette. Subjects and types of publications covered include: full-length books of fiction; biographies; romances; mysteries; science fiction; westerns; short stories; essays; poetry; drama; bestselling cassettes that discuss timely issues or provide interviews with current personalities or authors; abridgements, adaptations, and excerpts from popular books; children's literature; and classics. Each entry includes the vendor name, address and telephone number; a brief description of available materials; media; and price range. In addition, information about recorded books available on free loan to blind and physically handicapped individuals through the NLS network of libraries serving blind and physically handicapped persons includes a selected list of 12 publications with current information about spoken-word recordings and equipment. Listings of 8 bibliographies and 15 reference circulars published by the NLS are also included. (KM)

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Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Popular Literature

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

The Library of Congress

Washington, DC 20542

Date **February 1987**

No. **87-1**

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This reference circular contains selected sources for purchasing or renting fiction and nonfiction spoken-word recordings on disc and cassette. Included are full-length books of fiction, biographies, romances, mysteries, science fiction, westerns, short stories, essays, poetry, drama, bestselling cassettes that discuss timely issues or provide interviews with current personalities or authors, and abridgements, adaptations, or excerpts from popular books. Children's literature and classics are also included. Section II provides information about additional sources of spoken-word recordings, including information about recorded books available on free loan to blind and physically handicapped individuals through the NLS network of libraries serving blind and physically handicapped persons.

Information for this reference circular was compiled from responses to a questionnaire sent to producers and distributors of spoken-word recordings. Where available, telephone numbers are included. As additional information is provided, it will be listed in future editions of this circular.

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Definitions

Cassettes	Recordings on audio cassettes at the standard speed of 1 7/8 ips. If cassettes are available at the speed of 15/16 ips, this will be noted in the entry as: cassettes (15/16)
Combinations	A recording with the accompanying print book or pamphlet
Full-length	A book recorded in its entirety
Media	Indicates whether a recording is on cassette or phonograph disc, or both.
Popular literature	Bestsellers, romances, mysteries, science fiction, biographies, and other genre or subjects of current interest
Price/Price Range	Purchase price per title unless otherwise stated
Radio Plays	Recordings of popular radio programs broadcast from the early days of radio through the 1950s
Records	Phonograph disc recordings, usually at the speed of 33 1/3 rpm

I. SOURCES

Afro-Am Publishing Company (1)
910 South Michigan Avenue
Suite 556
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 922-1147

Poetry, biography, history, folktales, and stories related to the black experience.

Media: cassettes, records
Price: $9.98

ALS, Audio Language Studies (2)
One Colomba Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14305
(716) 298-5991

Read-along series that includes an abridged transcript and cassette of such classics as Heidi, Wind in the Willows, The Hounds of the Baskervilles, The Time Machine, A Christmas Carol, Wuthering Heights, Billy Budd, and Great Expectations. Each title averages two cassettes.

Media: cassettes, combinations
Price: $29.95

American Radio Heritage Institute (3)
P.O. Drawer Z
Scottsdale, AZ 85252

Radio plays including westerns and mysteries such as the Sherlock Holmes series.

Media: cassettes, records
Price range: $6.00-7.50 for an hour program

Applause Productions, Inc. (4)
85 Longview Road
Port Washington, NY 11050
(516) 883-7460

Poetry, short stories, and a wide selection of plays, including the complete canon of Shakespeare.

Media: cassettes, records
Price: $8.45-53.70

Audio Book Company (5)
Cassette Book Library
P.O. Box 7111
Pasadena, CA 91109
(818) 799-4139

Full-length recordings of bestselling novels, classics, and American history titles. Distributes Success Motivation tapes, which are condensed versions of books about personal growth. Also provides poetry, children's literature, and abridgements.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $35.70-59.50; $8.95-10.95/rental

Audio Book Contractors, Inc. (6)
P.O. Box 40115
Washington, DC 20016
(202) 363-3429

Full-length recordings of classics, popular children's literature, and books of humor.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $19.95-49.95; rentals/one-third of purchase price

Audio Editions (7)
P.O. Box 998
Burlingame, CA 94011
800-231-4261

Abridgements averaging two cassettes per title. Includes selections from popular business and management books narrated by their authors, dramatizations from noted mystery writers, and readings from classic American poetry.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $10.95-16.95

A. W. Peller & Associates, Inc. (8)
249 Goffle Road
Hawthorne, NJ 07507
(201) 423-4666

Dramatizations of books that have won the Newbery Medal or the Honor Award from the Newbery Committee. The award is given each year for "the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children." Also provides cassette/book combinations of popular children's literature called "readalongs" and a Cliffhangers series for young adults.

Media: cassettes, records, combinations
Price range: $10.95-16.59

Baker and Taylor (9)
11 West 42d Street
New York, NY 10036
(212) 819-7060

Distributes audio cassettes for forty publishers including children's literature, personal development, biographies, management, and fiction. Sells to schools, libraries, and bookstores.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $5.95-22.95

The Ballymote Tape Library (10)
223 Katonah Avenue
Katonah, NY 10536
(914) 232-9595

Sherlock Holmes mystery series and other mysteries performed for radio.

Media: cassettes
Price: $4.95

Bantam Audio Publishing (11)
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103
(212) 765-6500

Westerns by Louis L'Amour, personal development, and interviews with authors.

Media: cassettes
Price: $7.95

Books for Listening (12)
Publishers in Sound
289 Country Way
Scituate, MA 02066
(617) 545-6959

Full-length recordings of classics and popular literature. Also a distributor of condensed recordings from **Caedmon**.

Media: cassettes
Price: $8.00/per cassette; $6.50-14.00/30-day rental

Books in Motion (13)
East 9212 Montgomery #504
Spokane, WA 99206
(509) 922-1646

Full-length dramatizations of classics, westerns, poetry, and several recent bestsellers. Also includes "The Audible Stanford," sixty- to ninety-minute recordings of lectures from Stanford University including social sciences, science and technology, history and politics, business and economics, and literature.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $5.95-39.95; $2.50-12.00/rental

Books on Tape (14)
Box 7900
Newport Beach, CA 92660
800-626-3333

Wide selection of full-length books including popular literature and classics.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $24.00-80.00; $9.50-14.50/rental

BRC Productions (15)
P.O. Box 39522
Redford, MI 48239

Wide selection of radio plays.

Media: cassette
Price range: $6.50-7.00

Brilliance Corporation (16)
235 Fulton
Suite 207
Grand Haven, MI 49417
(616) 846-5256

"Bookcassettes," which are full-length recordings of bestselling fiction that must be played on cassette players equipped with stereo sound.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $11.95-21.95

Caedmon (17)
1995 Broadway
New York, NY 10023
(212) 580-3400

Wide selection of recordings consisting of a "core" collection for children and young adults; American and British poetry; world literature, including some in foreign languages; biographies; autobiographies; science fiction; and other general interest titles. Included are narrations by poets and writers, dramatizations performed by all-star entertainers, excerpts from books, abridgements, and some full-length recordings.

Media: cassettes, records, combinations
Price range: $8.95-35.92

Children's Classics on Tape (18)
6722 Bostwick Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
(703) 256-2186

Selections from classics such as Beowolf and Kipling's Mowgli Brothers. Some titles have accompanying study guides.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $7.95-10.95

Chivers Book Sales, Ltd. (19)
93-100 Locksbrook Road
Bath, Avon BA1 3HB
ENGLAND

Full-length classics, novels, and stories of suspense; poetry; drama, including a wide selection of Shakespeare; biography; and humor. Chivers's cassettes are distributed in the United States by **G. K. Hall**.

Media: cassettes
Price range: 3.95-21.95

Classroom World Productions, Inc. (20)
14 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27603
(919) 821-2640

Three series: World Personalities, Great Women of America, and States of the Nation. Each individual or state is featured on a separate cassette.

Media: cassettes
Price: $6.50

CMS Records, Inc. (21)
226 Washington Street
Mount Vernon, NY 10553
(914) 667-6200

World and American poetry, an American history series with authors reading from their own works, selections from children's literature, and folktales and legends.

Media: cassettes, records
Price: $8.98 per cassette or record

Computer Book Service (22)
4201 Raymond Drive
Hillside, IL 60162
(312) 547-4400

Distributes cassettes for twelve publishers including fiction, personal development, and management. Sells to bookstores and retail outlets.

Media: cassettes
Price: $7.95

Condensed Knowledge Company (23)
P.O. Box 3413
Waco, TX 76707
800-433-3314

Condensations of bestselling books and discussions by leading authorities dealing with self motivation and personal development.

Media: cassettes
Price: $14.95

Dove Books on Tape (24)
12711 Ventura Boulevard
Suite 250
Studio City, CA 91604
(213) 550-1806

Abridged bestsellers, mysteries, and current biography.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $8.95-14.95 plus postage

G. K. Hall Audio Books (25)
70 Lincoln Street
Boston, MA 02111
800-343-2806

Full-length recordings of popular literature, including some children's titles.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $13.95-39.95

Great American Audio Publishing Company (26)
33 Portman Road
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 576-7660

Wide selection of radio plays and recordings related to eventful periods in American and world history.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $3.50-15.00

Ingram Book Company (27)
Audio Cassette Division
Box 17266
Nashville, TN 37217
(615) 793-5000

Distributes audio cassettes for forty publishers including abridged and full-length recordings of children's literature, biographies, personal development, management, and bestselling fiction. Sells to schools, libraries, and bookstores.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $4.98-34.95

Jeffrey Norton Publishers, Inc. (28)
96 Broad Street
Guilford, CT 06437
800-243-1234

Dialogues on world literature, poetry and criticism from the YWHA Poetry Center in New York City and from the Poet's Audio Center in Washington, D.C.; Heywood Hale Broun's radio programs about interesting and important books and authors.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $11.95-13.95

Library of Congress (29)
Music Division
Recorded Sound Section
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 287-7833

Twentieth-century poetry, including poets reading their own works; animal and Jack tales.

Media: cassettes, records
Price: $8.95

Listen for Pleasure Ltd. (30)
One Colomba Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14305
(716) 298-5150

Abridgements of popular literature, classics, autobiographies, and children's books. Each title is abridged to play no more than two or three hours.

Media: cassettes
Price: $13.95

Listening Library, Inc. (31)
1 Park Avenue
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
(203) 637-3616

Abridgements of classic and near-classic novels, dramatized abridgements of popular literature, full narrations of famous American short stories, dramatic productions of plays, readings of classical and modern poetry, and discussions of current political and social issues.

Media: cassettes, records
Price range: $8.95-39.95

Listen USA, Inc. (32)
P.O. Box 192
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
(203) 661-0101

Noted authors discuss topics from their bestselling books on management, marketing, and personal development.

Media: cassettes
Price: $6.95

Live Oak Media (33)
P.O. Box 34
Ancramdale, NY 12503
(518) 329-6300

Dramatizations of literature for intermediate school-aged children and read-along cassettes for younger children.

Media: cassettes, records, combinations
Price range: $9.95-19.95

Metacom, Inc. (34)
1401B West River Road North
Minneapolis, MN 55411
(612) 588-2781

Wide selection of radio plays including those from NBC Theater, Radio Comedy Classics, Lux Radio Theater, and War of the Worlds series.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $4.98-24.98

The Mind's Eye (35)
4 Commercial Boulevard
Novato, CA 94947
(415) 883-7701

Dramatizations of classics, radio plays, and dramatizations depicting the lives of great Americans and memorable periods in American history.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $5.98-29.95

National Public Radio (36)
Cassette Publishing
2025 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036
800-253-0808

One-half to one-hour programs discussing topics of current interest to the American public. Discussions are lead by experts in their respective fields. Foreign affairs, social problems, special-interest groups, health and medical concerns, and psychology are among the topics discussed.

Media: cassettes
Price Range: $9.95-20.95

National Radio Theatre (37)
600 North McClurg Court
Suite 502A
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 751-1625

Favorite stories, plays, and poems adapted for contemporary radio.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $10-90

Newman Communications Corporation (38)
2700 Broadbent Parkway, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
(505) 344-5838

Wide selection of abridged cassettes. Poetry, drama, children's literature, popular fiction, biographies, management, and personal growth are among the topics covered. The collection includes titles from fifteen other producers.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $8.95-13.95

North American Radio Archives, Ltd. (39)
1301 North Park Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90302
(213) 673-4455

Radio plays for rent to members.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $15.00 annual membership plus a minimum of $2.50/30-day rental

Price/Stern/Sloan Publishers, Inc. (40)
410 North La Cienega Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90048
(213) 657-6100

Book/cassette series for young children. Each series includes stories that focus on a specific theme.

Media: cassettes, combinations
Price range: $8.95-29.95

Recorded Books (41)
6306 Aaron Lane
Clinton, MD 20735
800-638-1204

Wide selection of full-length recordings. Includes bestsellers, classics, management books, and children's stories.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $19.95-54.95; $5.95-13.95/30-day rental

Simon & Schuster Audio Publishing Division (42)
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
(212) 698-7181

Noted authors discuss points from their bestselling books on management and personal development.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $7.95-14.95

Sound-Pool, Inc. (43)
P.O. Box 5065
Bloomington, IN 47402
(812) 333-6427

Condensed classics; poetry; drama, including Shakespeare; dramatizations of children's literature, including a read-along series.

Media: cassettes, combinations
Price range: $8.98-26.94

Spoken Arts, Inc. (44)
310 North Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 636-5482

American and world poetry; short stories; drama, including Shakespeare; some titles in other languages. Also offers a wide selection of folklore, mythology, and full-length dramatizations of classics with companion readers.

Media: cassettes, records, combinations
Price range: $8.95-69.95

SQN Entertainment Software Corporation (45)
One Charles Street
Providence, RI 02904
(401) 521-2010

Recordings of award-winning children's books, songs, and poems.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $5.95-19.95

Stemmer House Publishers, Inc. (46)
BEDE Productions
2027 Caves Road
Owings Mills, MD 21117
(301) 363-3690

Poetry and dramatizations of Shakespeare in book/cassette combinations.

Media: cassettes, combinations
Price range: $8.95-21.90

Tape Rental Library, Inc. (47)
P.O. Box 107
Covesville, VA 22931
(804) 293-3705

Distributes recordings from various sources. Topics range from management and personal development to abridged and full-length classics.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $6.50-52.50; $120.00/annual rental subscription (exchange cassettes as often as desired; receive two cassettes with each exchange)

Thomas S. Klise Company (48)
203 NE Perry Street
Peoria, IL 61603
(309) 676-5311

Twenty-five full-length children's classics.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $19.95-24.50

Troll Associates (49)
320 Route 17
Mahwah, NJ 07430
(201) 529-4000

Wide selection of literature for children, including several book/cassette combinations.

Media: cassettes, combinations
Price range: $9.95-12.00

Ulverscroft Soundings (50)
c/o Helen D. Boyle
279 Boston Street
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 453-2080

Full-length recordings of bestselling British literature.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $13.95-34.50

Warner Audio Publishing (51)
P.O. Box 718
New York, NY 10011
800-528-6050, ext. 1890

Interviews with authors and experts in history, science, and technology; how-to discussions related to business and management; dramatizations of classics and contemporary fiction.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $7.95-14.95

Weston Woods (52)
Weston, CT 06883
800-243-5020

Wide selection of children's literature, including some book/cassette combinations.

Media: cassettes, combinations
Price range: $7.00-13.95

Wiley Sound Business Cassettebooks (53)
c/o John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
605 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10158
(212) 850-6037

Conversations with business and management experts.

Media: cassettes
Price range: $8.95-14.95

II. RESOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

A. NLS Free Library Service

A free national library program that provides recorded materials for blind and physically handicapped persons is administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress. With the cooperation of authors and publishers who grant permission to use copyrighted works, NLS selects and produces full-length books and magazines on recorded disc and cassette. Reading materials (braille is provided also) are distributed to a cooperating network of 56 regional and 103 subregional (local) libraries where they are circulated to eligible borrowers. Recorded materials are sent to eligible readers by postage-free mail and are returned in the same manner. Specially designed phonographs and cassette players are also loaned free to eligible readers.

The NLS recorded book collection contains 26,000 titles, which are selected on the basis of their appeal to a wide range of interests. Bestsellers, biographies, fiction, and how-to books are in great demand. Titles expected to be extremely popular are produced on flexible disc in several thousand copies and circulated to borrowers within several months of their publication in print form.

Eligibility

Residents of the United States and American citizens residing abroad who are unable to read or use standard printed materials as a result of temporary or permanent visual or physical limitations may receive service. A survey sponsored by NLS found that two million persons with some type of visual impairment may be eligible and another million with physical conditions such as paralysis, missing arms or hands, lack of muscle coordination, or prolonged weakness could benefit from the use of reading materials in recorded form.

For further information, application forms, or the address of the nearest library serving blind and physically handicapped individuals, write or telephone:

Reference Section
National Library Service for the
Blind and Physically Handicapped
Washington, DC 20542
(202) 287-9286

B. Selected List of Publications with Current Information about Spoken-Word Recordings and Equipment

Audio cassette newsletter. Quarterly. $19/yr. Cassette Information Services, P.O. Box 9559, Glendale, CA 91206.

Provides descriptions and source information for new spoken-word cassettes on a wide range of subjects.

Audio publishing report. Monthly. $225/yr. Knowledge Industry Publications, 701 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604.

News about the cassette publishing industry.

Audio video market place: a multimedia guide. Annual. $52/yr. R. R. Bowker, 205 East Forty-second Street, New York, NY 10017.

An annotated listing of producers and distributors of audiovisual software and hardware. Contains a glossary and separate sections on reference books, directories, periodicals, funding sources, associations, audiovisual awards, and festivals.

Audio/video plus. Monthly feature in Publisher's weekly. Weekly. $89/yr. Publishers Weekly, P.O. Box 1979, Marion, OH 43302.

A regular feature that provides current information about the cassette industry.

Educator's guide to free audio and video materials. Annual. $30.00/yr. Educators Progress Service, 214 Center Street, Randolph, WI 53956.

An annotated listing of free audiotapes, scripts, and audiodiscs. The guide is arranged alphabetically by title under broad subject areas with title and subject indexes.

Equipment directory of audiovisual, computer, and video products. Annual. $60/yr. International Communications Industries Association, Inc., 3150 Spring Street Fairfax, VA 22031.

A compilation of pertinent facts about all types of audio-visual equipment, including cassette and open-reel tape recorders, duplicators, and record players. A picture of each model is shown.

Iwan, Irene J., ed. Words on tape: an international guide to recorded books. Westport, CT: Meckler Publishing, 1984. 428p.

An author, title, and subject guide to approximately 6,000 titles available on cassette. Subject areas include novels, children's fiction, plays, short stories, self-help, inspirational, business-related courses, poetry, and political interviews.

Library resources for the blind and physically handicapped. Annual. Free. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542.

Includes names and addresses of NLS network libraries, their readership, circulation, budget, staff, and collections. Also includes information about other national-level sources of recordings for blind and physically handicapped individuals.

Library of Congress. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Reference Section. Guide to spoken-word recordings: foreign-language literature and instruction. Compiled by Linda Redmond. Washington: 1982. 28p. Free on request.

Includes sources of recordings of literature and instruction for a variety of foreign-languages and English as a second language.

McKee, Gerald, ed. Directory of spoken-word audio cassettes. Guilford, CT: Jeffrey Norton Publishers, 1983. 169p. $24.50.

An annotated listing of audio cassettes by subject. Annotations include addresses of producers/distributors.

On cassette: a comprehensive bibliography of spoken-word audio cassettes. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1986. 655p. $71.

An author, subject, and title guide to approximately 11,500 titles available on cassette. Included are indexes for title, author, reader/narrator, subject, producer/distributor by title, and producer/distributor.

Schwann Catalog [Super Schwann]. Quarterly. $20/yr. W. Schwann, Inc., 535 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116.

A section of this catalog is devoted to spoken-word recordings.

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Compiled by:
Linda Redmond
Reference Section
December 1986

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

A series of bibliographies is also published by the Reference Section. The following titles are available free on request:

Accessibility: Designing Buildings for the Needs of Handicapped Persons, 1983

Attitudes toward Handicapped People, Past and Present, 1984

Braille: History and Recent Developments, 1982

Gardening for Handicapped and Elderly Persons, 1981

Library and Information Services to Handicapped Persons, 1983

Mobility and Mobility Aids for Visually Handicapped Individuals, 1984

Reading Machines: Devices for Converting Print to Braille or Speech, 1985

Selected Readings for Parents of Preschool Handicapped Children, 1986

Additional copies of this reference circular or any of the reference circulars listed below are available free on request from:

Reference Section
National Library Service for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

REFERENCE CIRCULARS

Becoming a Volunteer: Resources for Individuals, Libraries, and Organizations, 1981

Bibles and Other Scriptures in Special Media, 1983

Braille Instruction and Writing Equipment, 1986

Building a Library Collection on Blindness and Physical Handicaps: Basic Materials and Resources, 1985

From School to Working Life: Resources and Services, 1985

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Educational, Professional, and Self-Development Materials, 1983

Guide to Spoken-Word Recordings: Foreign Language Literature and Instruction, 1982

Information for Handicapped Travelers, 1982

National Organizations Concerned with Visually and Physically Handicapped Persons, 1983

Parents Guide to the Development of Preschool Handicapped Children: Resources and Services, 1984

Reading Materials in Large Type, 1983

Reading, Writing, and Other Communication Aids for Visually and Physically Handicapped Persons, 1986

Reference Books in Special Media, 1982

Sources of Audiovisual Materials about Handicapping Conditions, 1985

Sources of Braille Reading Materials, 1985

Sports, Games, and Outdoor Recreation for Handicapped Persons, 1983

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1987 181-539/40041